

Resident Undergraduate Charges at California's Public Universities



A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET

CALIFORNIA charges its own residents less to attend its public colleges and universities than it charges nonresidents. It charges resident students systemwide fees as well as mandatory, campus-based fees. These fees help support student services like counseling, health insurance, student union activities, student government, and recreation. California has sought to avoid charging resident students for the direct cost of instruction, which it charges as "tuition" to nonresident students.

Who are resident students?

California State University determines the residency of its students according to State law, which defines resident students for tuition purposes as those who (1) have resided in California for at least one year and one day prior to enrolling in a college or university, and (2) intend to make California their home. A student may demonstrate the intent to reside in California through a number of means, including obtaining a California driver's license, owning or renting property in the state, registering a vehicle in California, and paying California personal income taxes.

A recently enacted statute now provides that nonresident students may be considered residents for tuition purposes if they have attended for three years and graduated from a California high school.

The University of California has adopted stricter residency requirements for its undergraduate students. It requires that students be classified as residents of the state in which their parents reside as long as they are classified as dependent upon their parents according to financial aid definitions. Generally, this means that out-of-state undergraduate students cannot establish California residency until they are 24 years of age.

What does the University of California charge resident students?

For 2000-01, the University charges undergraduate California residents an average of \$3,859 in mandatory fees [these numbers exclude a mandatory health insurance premium of \$487 (on average) to students who do not have health coverage], of which \$3,429 is the systemwide fee. This total is \$1,726 less than the average fee charged by

the four public universities with which the University of California compares itself on faculty salaries:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	\$7,375
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	5,754
State University of New York, Buffalo	4,790
University of Virginia	4,421
University of California	3,859
Average of the comparison group	\$5,585

What does the California State University charge resident students?

The California State University charges resident students an average of \$1,876 in mandatory fees, of which \$1,428 is the systemwide fee. This total is lower than all of the 15 public universities with which California State University compares itself in terms of faculty salaries and \$2,292 lower than the group average:

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark	\$6,422
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	5,910
University of Connecticut	5,824
Illinois State University	4,721
Wayne State University	4,679
State University of New York, Albany	4,625
Cleveland State University	4,464
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	4,057
George Mason University (Virginia)	3,792
University of Texas, Arlington	3,470
North Carolina State University	3,302
Georgia State University	3,292
University of Colorado, Denver	2,934
University of Nevada, Reno	2,547
Arizona State University	2,488
California State University	1,839
Average of the comparison group	\$4,168

How have charges for California residents changed over the years?

The displays on the reverse side show the average annual resident undergraduate fees at the University of California and the California State University for fiscal years 1978-79 through 2000-01, expressed in actual and constant 2000-01 dollars.

Total Annual Resident Undergraduate Student Fees, Expressed in Actual and Constant 2000-01 Dollars, for Fiscal Years 1978-79 Through 2000-01

